

International Weather and Crop Summary

August 6 - 12, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Several days of dry weather in Ukraine and Russia helped winter and spring grain harvesting in most areas.

FSU-NEWLANDS: Continued unseasonably warm, dry weather in most of north-central Kazakhstan accelerated spring grain development, while farther north in Russia, light to moderate showers and cooler weather improved growing conditions for filling spring grains.

EUROPE: Drier weather helped winter grain harvesting in most of northern Europe.

SOUTH ASIA: Monsoon rains finally returned to Gujarat and southern India, ending a stressful dry spell.

MEXICO: Widespread showers covered the central and eastern corn belt, boosting moisture supplies for corn.

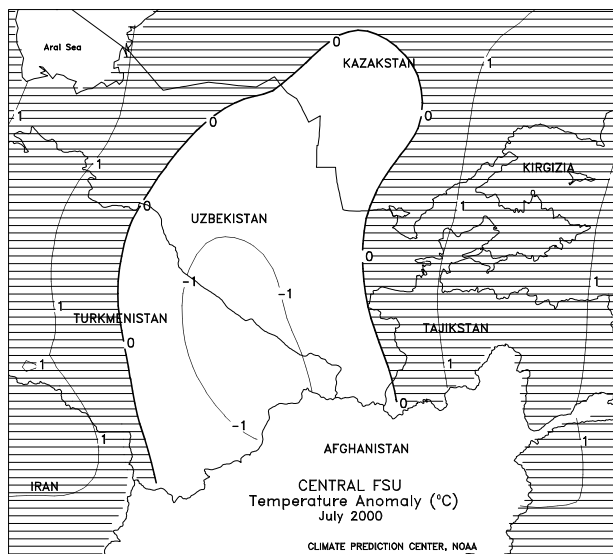
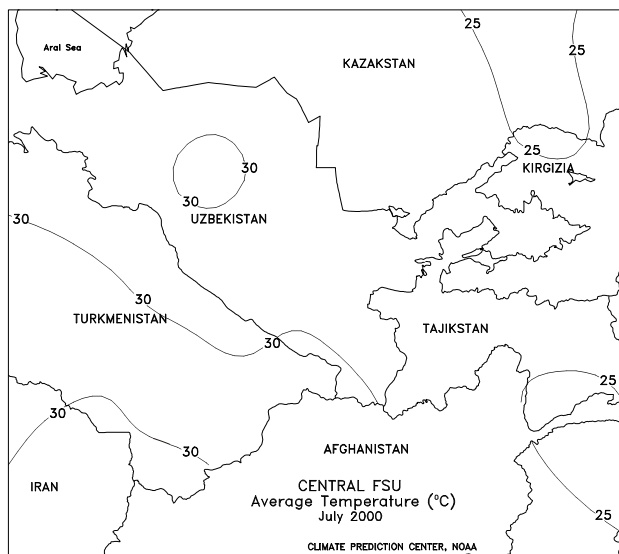
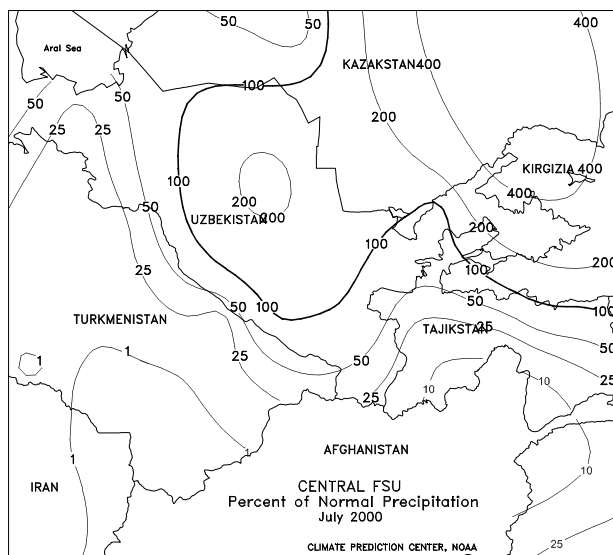
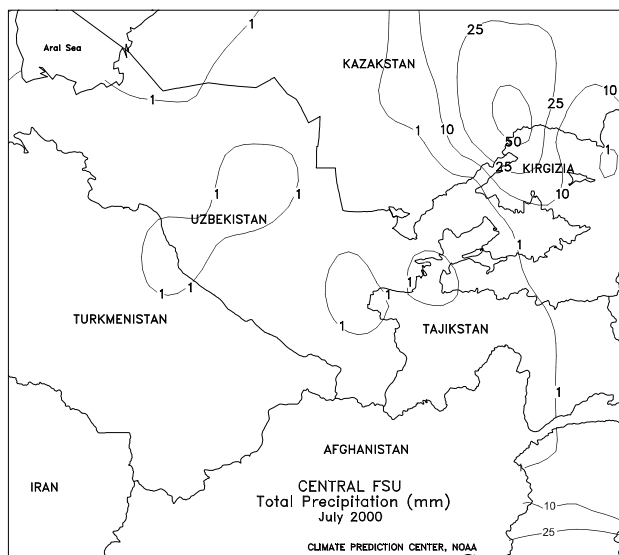
CANADA: Crops stayed unfavorably wet in the eastern Prairies, Ontario, and Quebec.

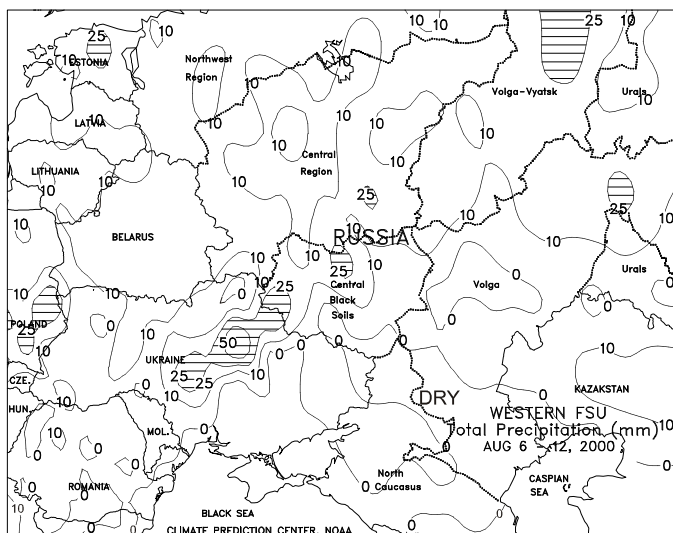
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Generally dry weather throughout the region reduced moisture supplies for crops.

EASTERN ASIA: Widespread showers stabilized summer crop yield potentials across Manchuria and northern North Korea and boosted moisture supplies across the northern North China Plain.

SOUTH AMERICA: Across most of central Argentina, rain boosted topsoil moisture for vegetative winter wheat, but topsoil moisture remained limited across Buenos Aires.

AUSTRALIA: Light showers benefited most winter grain areas.

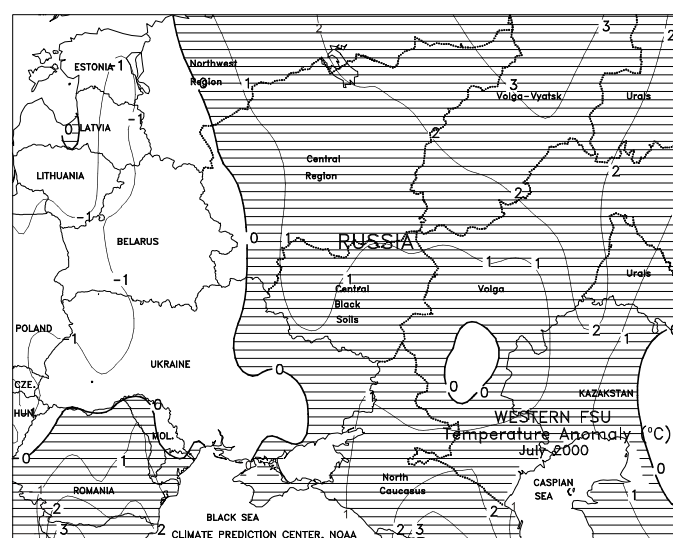
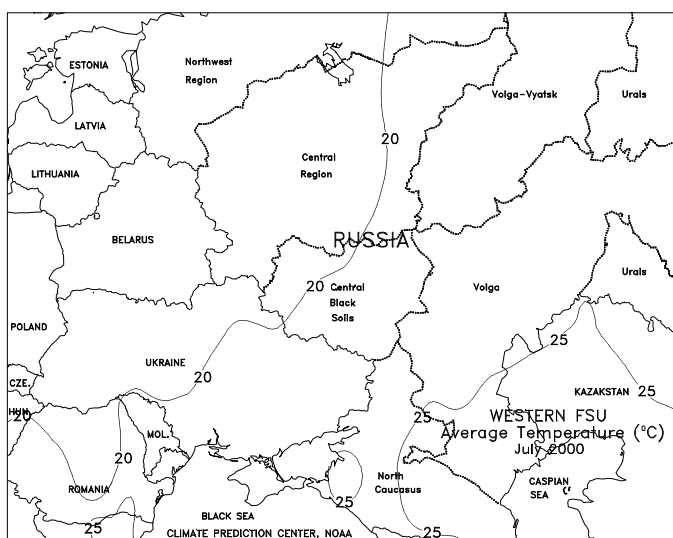
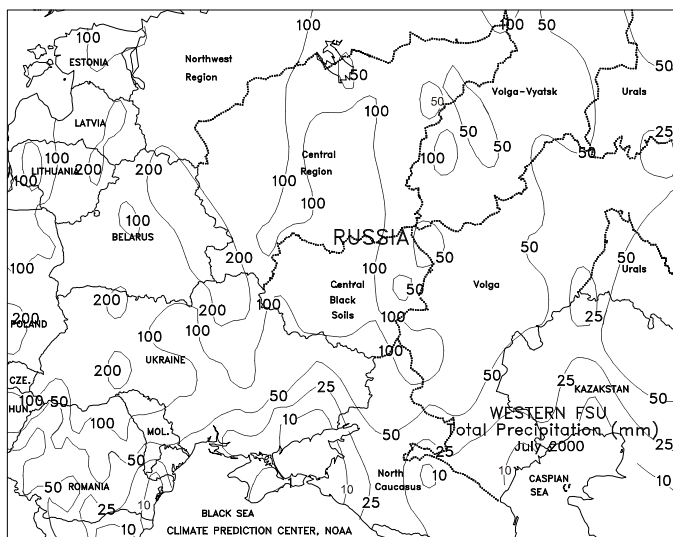


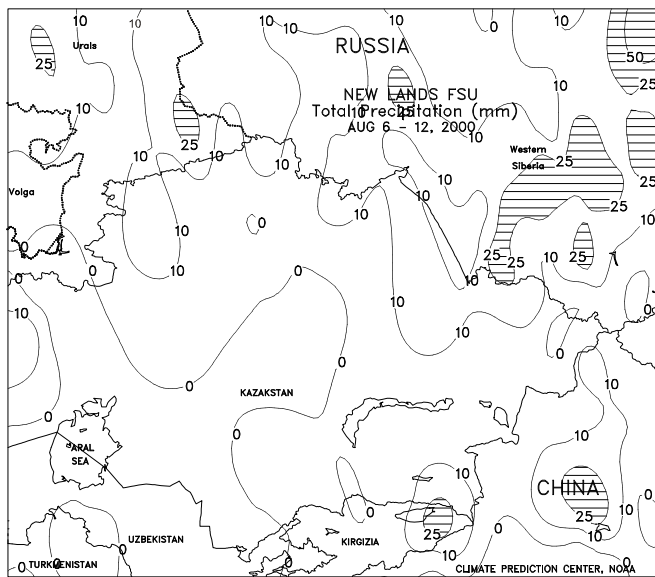


prevailed over southern areas (North Caucasus and lower Volga Valley) from July 11-28, favoring rapid winter wheat harvesting, but increasing stress on summer crops advancing through reproduction. Farther north, near- to above-normal precipitation was observed in northern Russia during July, benefiting spring grains that advanced through reproduction and immature winter grains. Elsewhere, above-normal precipitation in the Baltics and Belarus followed June's unfavorable dryness, improving growing conditions for spring-sown crops.

FSU-WESTERN

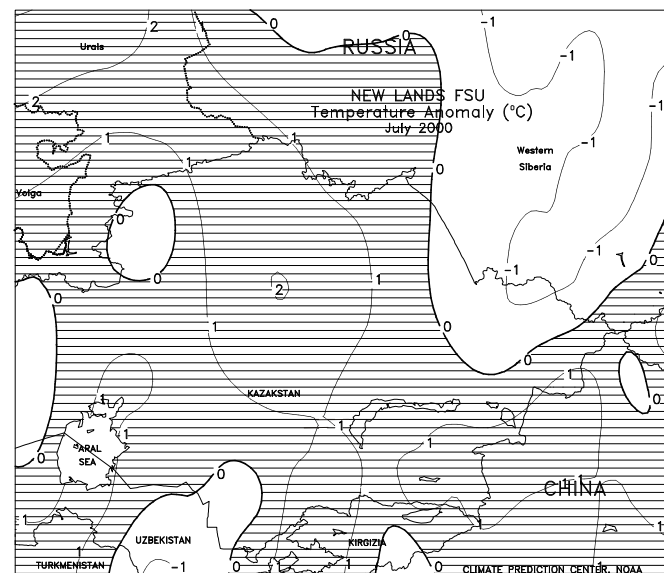
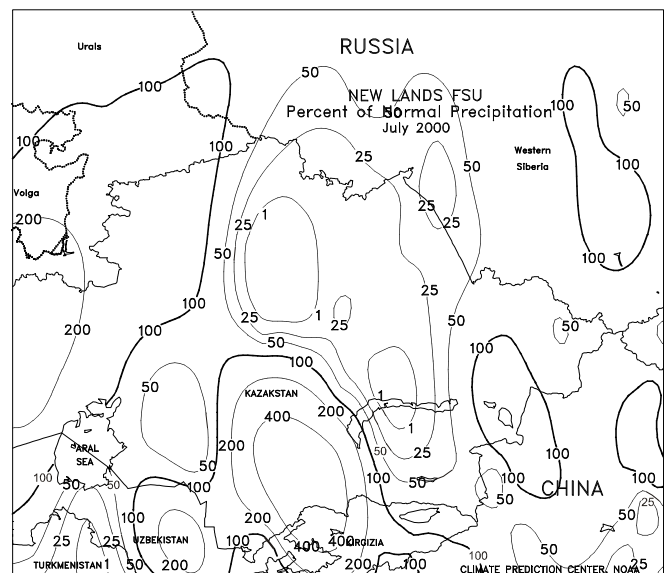
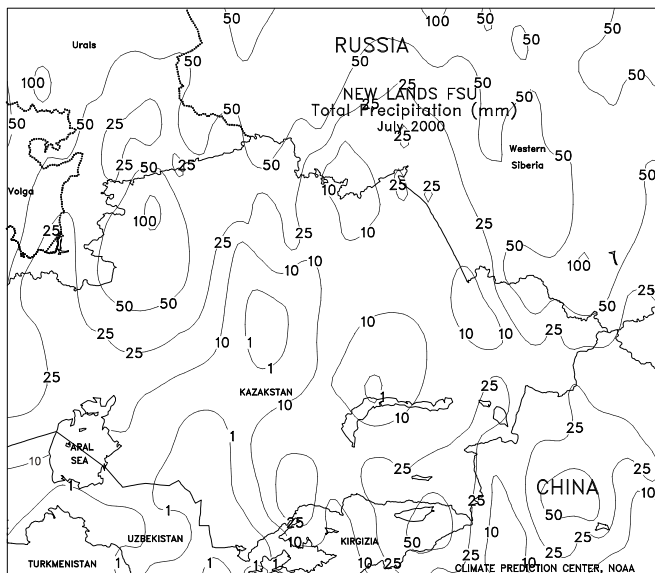
Several days of dry weather prevailed in Russia and Ukraine, helping winter and spring grain harvesting. The greatest delays in harvesting were confined to a narrow area extending from the central Ukraine northeastward into the Central Black Soils Region of Russia, where precipitation amounts ranged from 25 to 50 mm. Unseasonably warm, dry weather continued in southeastern Ukraine and returned to southern Russia, stressing corn and sunflowers. Extreme maximum temperatures in these areas ranged from 32 to 36 degrees C, accelerating crop development. Elsewhere, intermittent showers (10-25 mm or more) slowed winter grain harvesting in Belarus, Latvia, and Estonia, but favored summer crop development. In July, wet weather prevailed over northern, central, and western Ukraine, delaying winter wheat harvesting, but providing abundant soil moisture for summer crop development. In contrast, July precipitation was well below normal (less than 50 percent of normal) in southeastern Ukraine, stressing corn and sunflowers that advanced through reproduction during the month. In Russia, unseasonably warm, dry weather

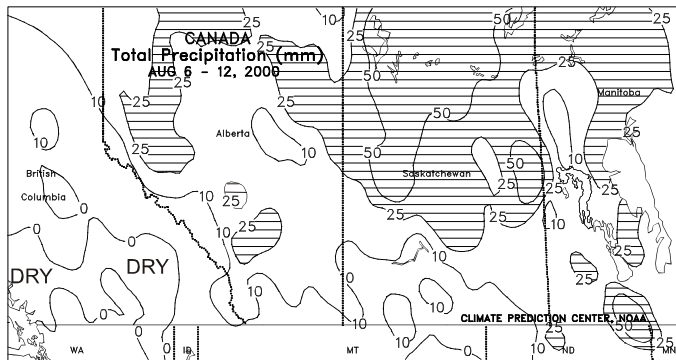




FSU-NEW LANDS

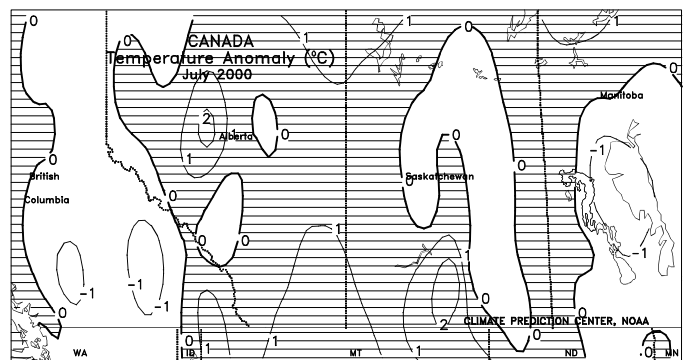
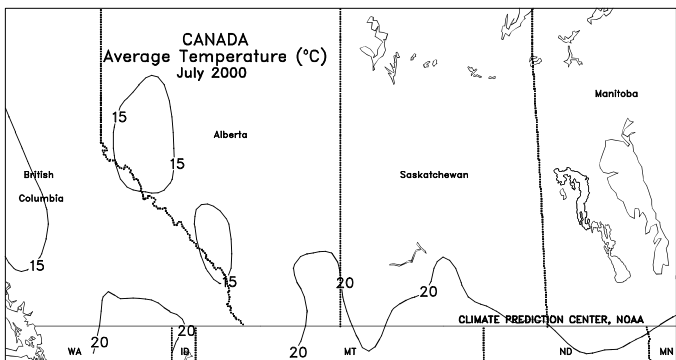
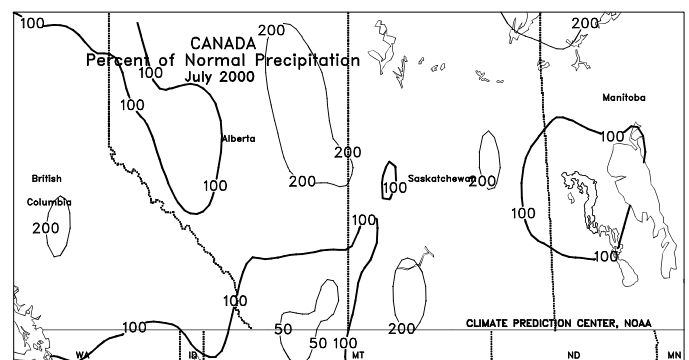
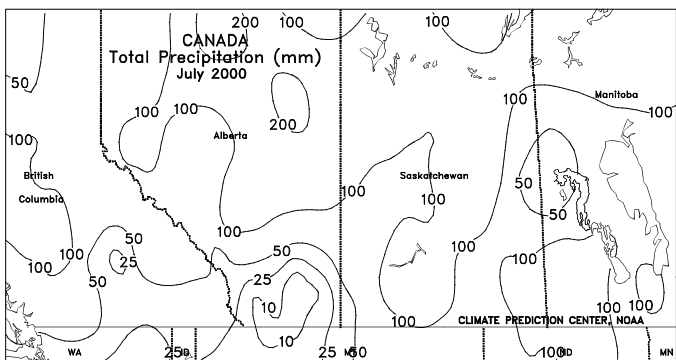
Unseasonably warm, dry weather continued to prevail over primary spring grain-producing areas of north-central Kazakstan, with significant precipitation (10 mm or more) confined to spotty locations. A warming trend occurred during the week, with maximum temperatures ranging from 30 to 35 degrees C, accelerating crop development. In Russia, showers (8-25 mm or more) spread from the Urals eastward into Eastern Siberia, favoring spring grains in the filling stage. In the Altay Kray region of Western Siberia, a heat wave early in the week was followed by widespread showers and cooler weather at week's end, improving crop conditions. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 3 degrees C above normal in central Kazakstan and western areas in Russia, and 3 to 5 degrees C above normal in eastern Kazakstan and eastern areas in Russia. In July, weather conditions were mixed for crop development in most of Russia and Kazakstan. A drying trend developed in major spring grain-producing areas of north-central Kazakstan and Western Siberia, Russia during the month, lowering soil moisture reserves. In contrast, near- to above-normal precipitation favored spring grains in western Kazakstan and the Urals region of Russia.

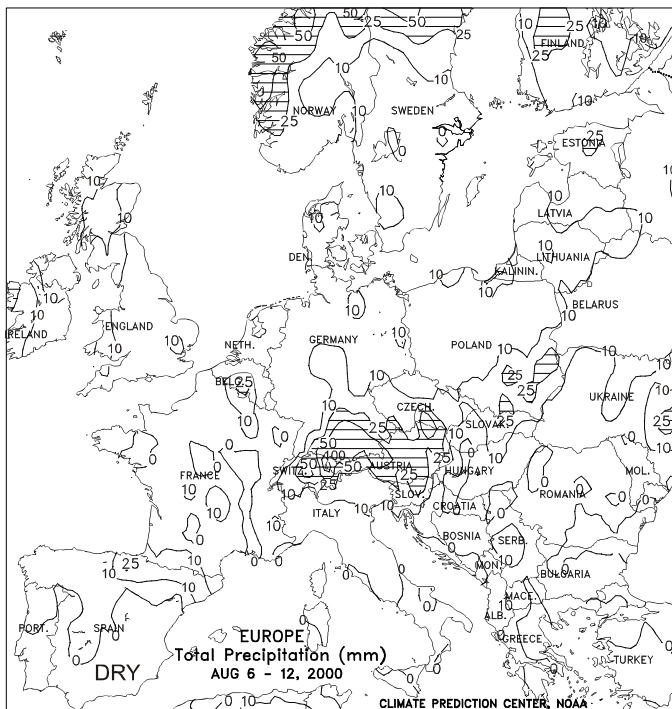




CANADA

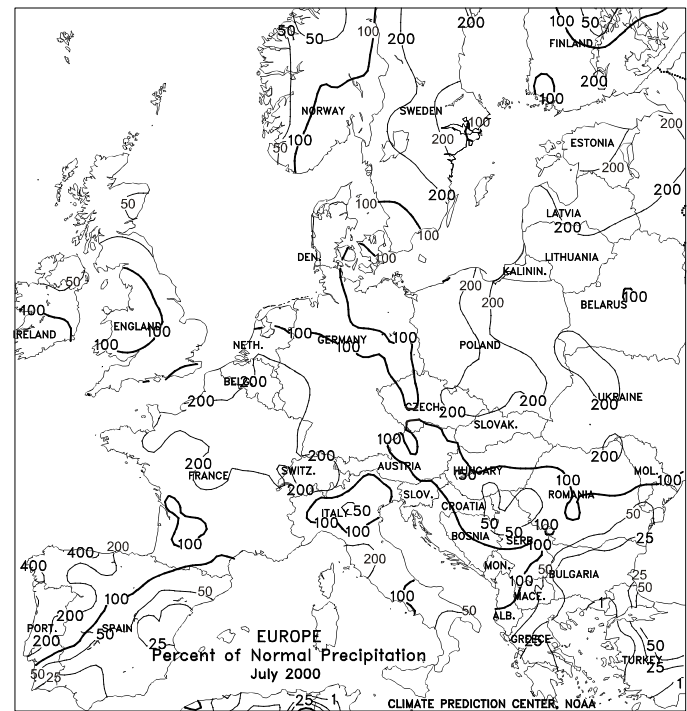
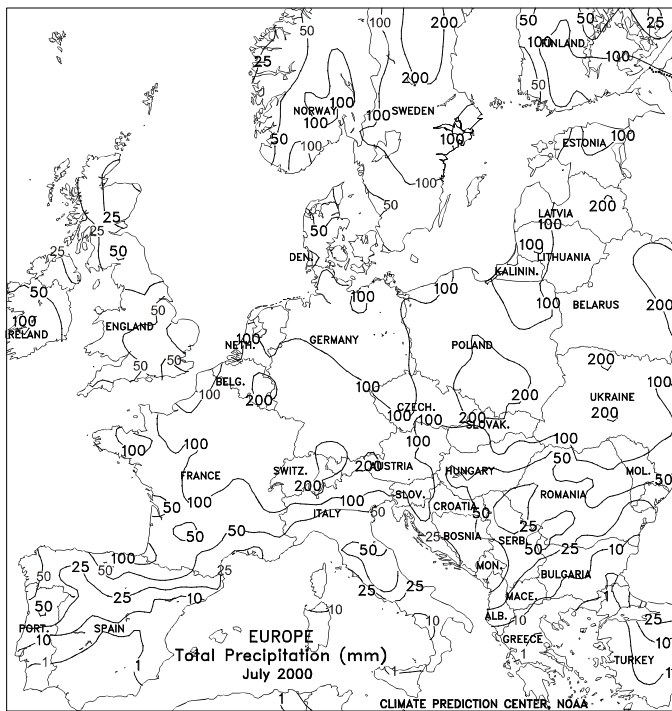
In Manitoba, moderate showers (10-25 mm or more) hampered fieldwork such as haying and raised quality concerns for filling spring grains. Moderate to heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) swept across northern Prairie growing areas, but drier conditions in southern Saskatchewan favored dry down and early harvesting. Showers (5-23 mm) broke the heat wave in southern Alberta but came too late to significantly improve crop prospects. Temperatures averaged near normal (highs in the upper 20's and lower 30's degrees C) across the Prairies except in the Peace River Valley, where cooler-than-normal weather slowed grain and oilseed development. In eastern Canada, scattered showers (10-50 mm) overspread crop districts in Ontario and Quebec, causing additional problems for unharvested winter wheat, hay, and disease-sensitive corn and soybeans. During July, Prairie rainfall totaled near to above normal, due mainly to early-month soaking rains. The moisture was overall favorable for reproductive to filling spring grains and oilseeds, and near- to above-normal temperatures fostered a needed boost in crop growth rates. However, southern Alberta remained unfavorable dry, with periodic heat stress leading to early maturity. In eastern Canada, cool, wet weather was unfavorable for maturing winter wheat and vegetative to reproductive summer crops.

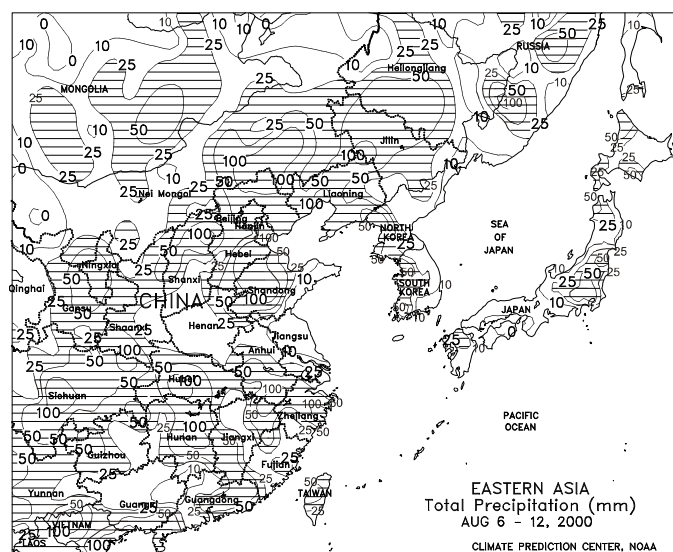




EUROPE

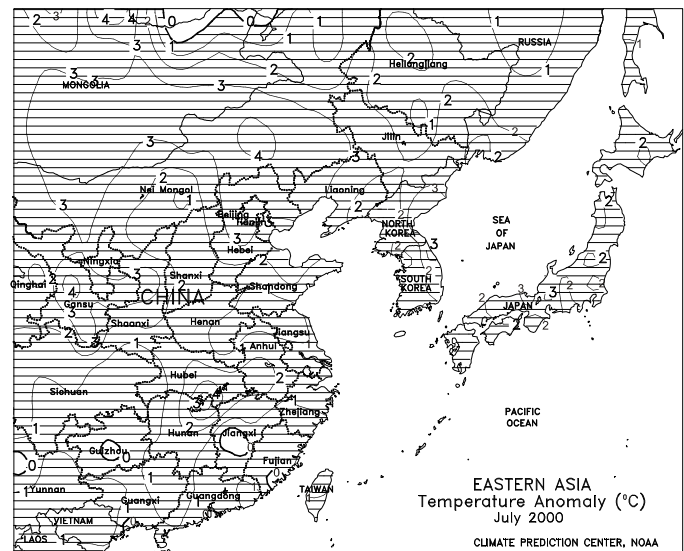
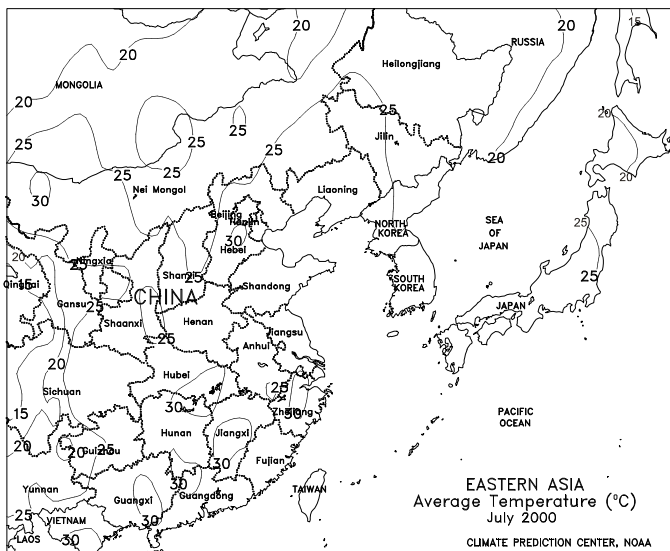
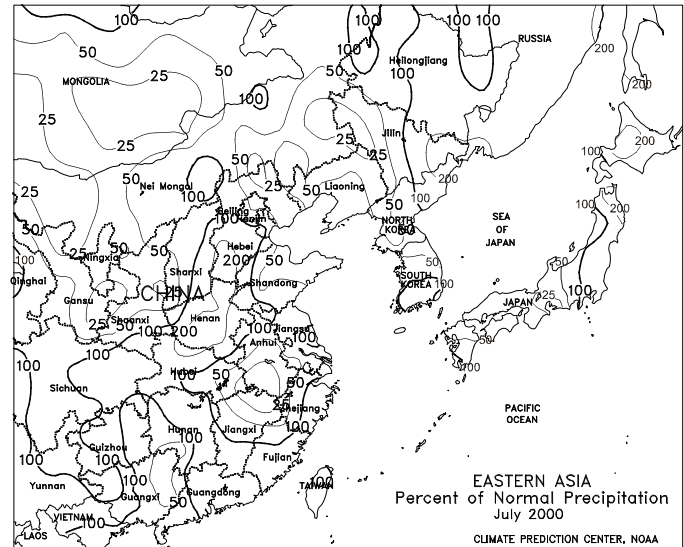
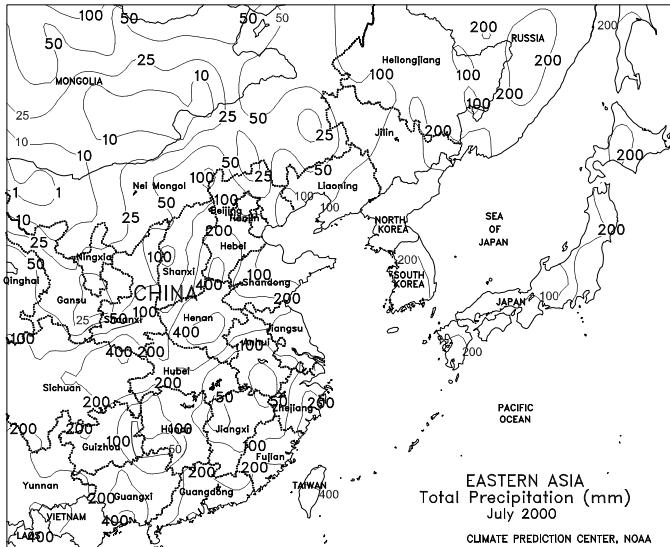
Light to moderate showers (10-38 mm, locally near 85 mm) in southern Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, and southern Poland caused additional winter grain harvesting delays and likely further reduced crop quality. Throughout the remainder of northern Europe, isolated, mainly light showers (2-18 mm) caused localized harvesting delays, while the harvesting pace increased elsewhere. Soil moisture remained abundant for reproductive to filling summer crops in northern Europe. In Spain and Portugal, dry weather maintained irrigation requirements for immature summer crops, but helped late winter wheat and early summer crop harvesting. Farther east, widely scattered, mainly light showers (7-23 mm) benefited filling to maturing summer crops in northern Italy, while dry weather covered the remainder of the Italian peninsula. Similarly, dry weather persisted in major crop-producing areas in southeastern Europe, further reducing moisture supplies for filling to maturing summer crops. Temperatures across Europe were generally seasonal, averaging within 1 or 2 degrees C of normal in most areas. During July, unseasonably cool, wet weather in northern Europe caused frequent winter grain and oilseed harvesting delays and slowed summer crop development, but maintained adequate moisture supplies for reproductive summer crops. In contrast, mostly dry weather in southern Hungary, eastern Croatia, northern Serbia, Romania, and Bulgaria further reduced moisture supplies for drought-stressed summer crops. In the Po River Valley of Italy and much of the southern and eastern Iberian peninsula, below-normal precipitation favored winter grain harvesting, but increased irrigation requirements for immature summer crops.

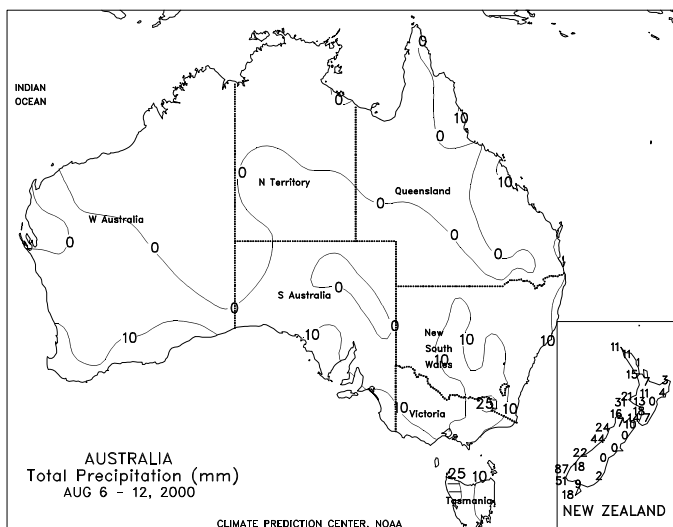




EASTERN ASIA

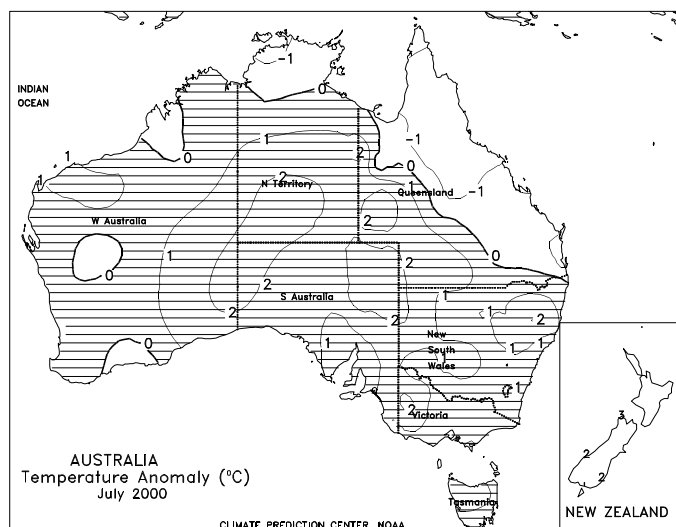
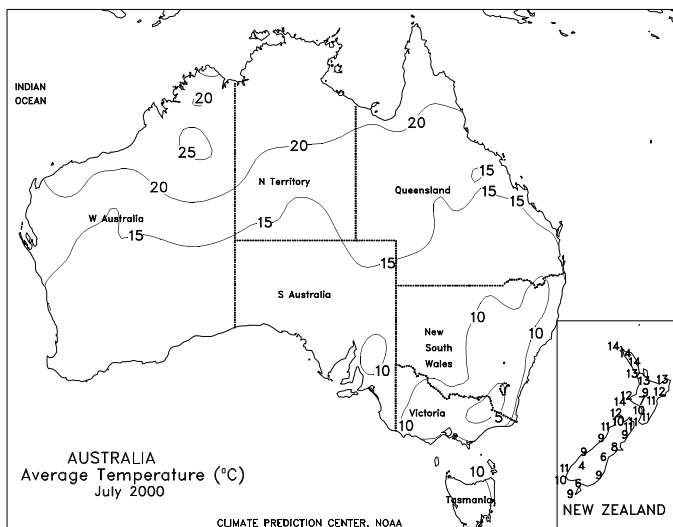
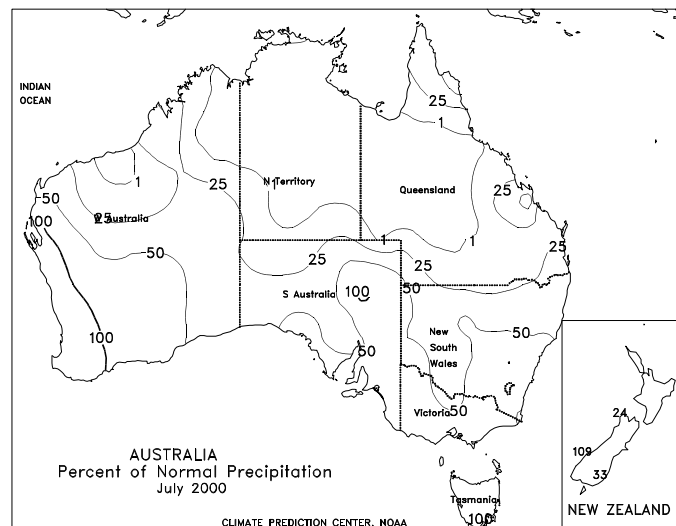
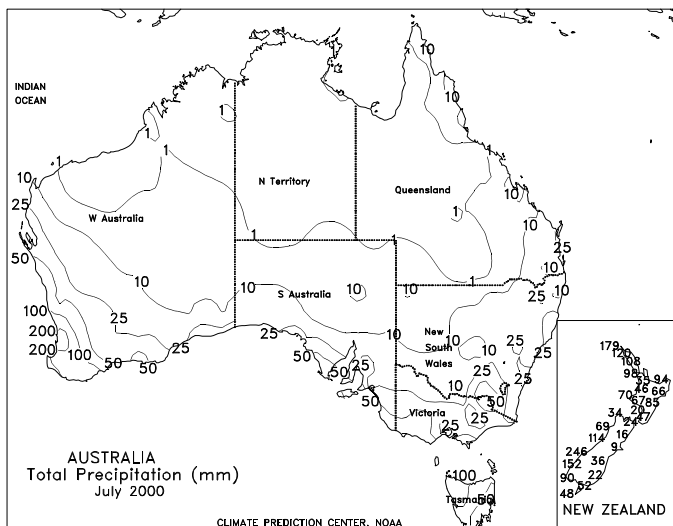
In Manchuria, widespread showers (25-80 mm) eased drought conditions and stabilized summer crop yield potentials. In the North China Plain, showers (50-150 mm) boosted moisture supplies in southern Hebei and Shandong, but lighter showers (less than 25 mm) fell across Henan and northern Anhui and Jiangsu. Moderate rain (15-60 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 100 mm) boosted moisture supplies for summer crops across the northwestern grain areas of southern Gansu, Shaanxi, and Shanxi. On August 10, Typhoon Jelawat hit the eastern province of Zhejiang with sustained winds of 65 knots (75 mph). The storm helped to produce moderate to heavy showers (50-130 mm) across Zhejiang and northern Jiangxi, and southern Anhui. Across the rest of central and southern China, widespread showers (25-125 mm) maintained favorable moisture supplies for rice. Only the northern half of Guangxi and southern Guizhou received lesser amounts of rain (less than 25 mm). Temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal across Manchuria and 1 to 2 degrees C above normal across the rest of China. Showers (30-150 mm) eased drought across northwestern North Korea. Showers (25-60 mm) maintained moisture supplies across South Korea and northern Japan. In southern Japan, dry, sunny weather favored rice development, but reduced moisture supplies. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across the Korean Peninsula and Japan. During July, drought-stressed reproductive summer crops and reduced yield potentials in southern Manchuria and northern North Korea. In northern Manchuria, near to slightly below-normal July rainfall helped to stabilize yield potentials. Above-normal July rainfall boosted moisture supplies across the western North China Plain, but below-normal rainfall stressed summer crops in the east. Across most of southern China, near-normal July rainfall maintained moisture supplies for rice and summer crops. However, below-normal rainfall in the eastern Yangtze Valley reduced moisture supplies. Near-normal monthly rainfall maintained moisture supplies in South Korea and northern Japan, while below-normal rainfall in southern Japan reduced moisture supplies.

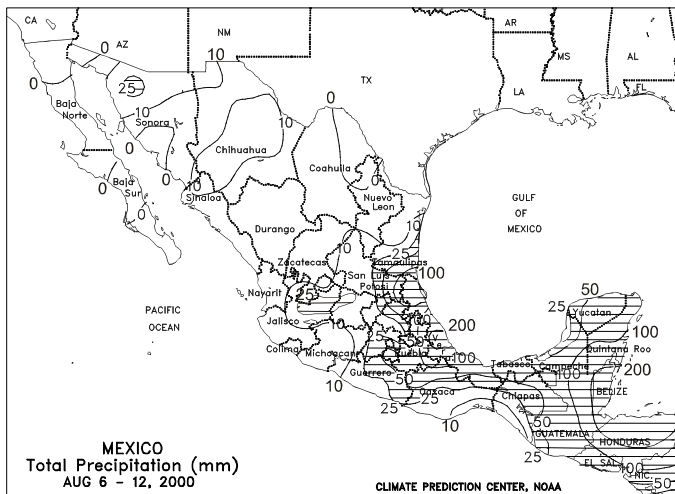




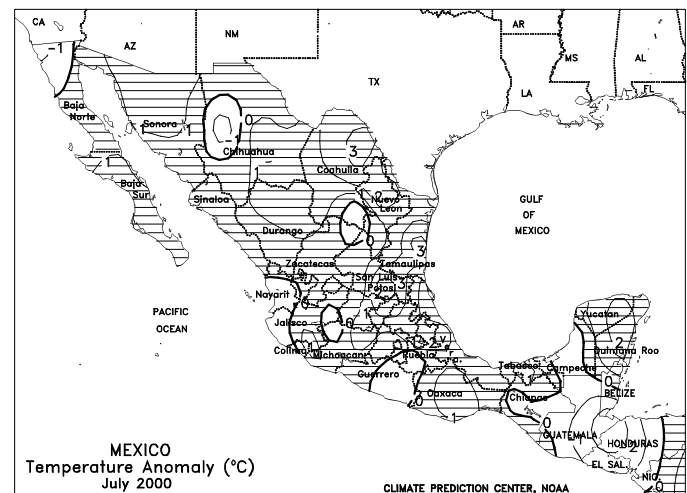
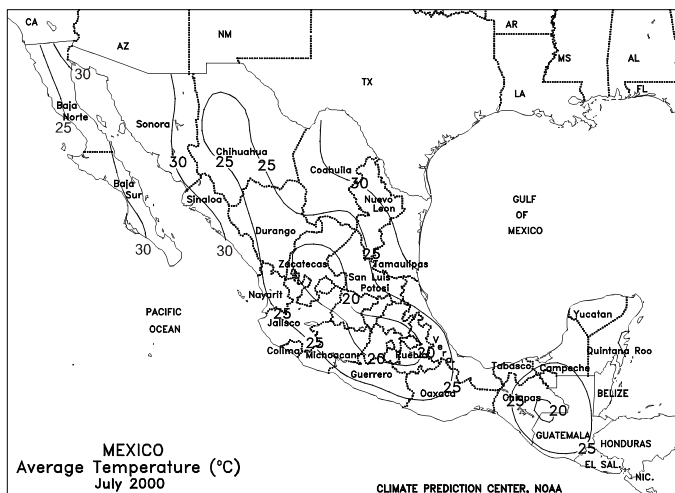
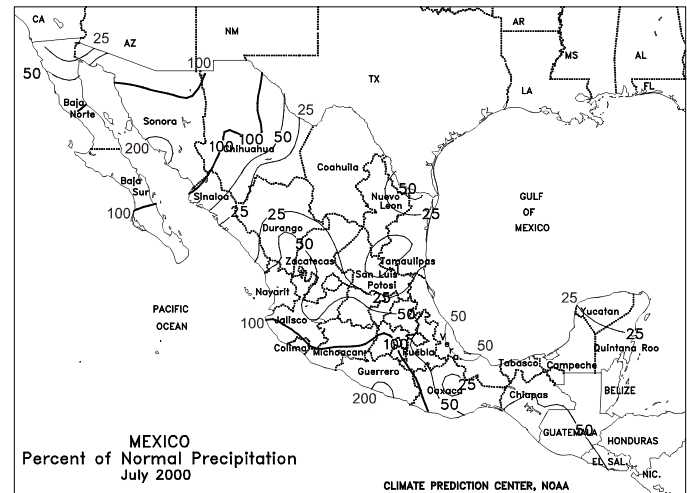
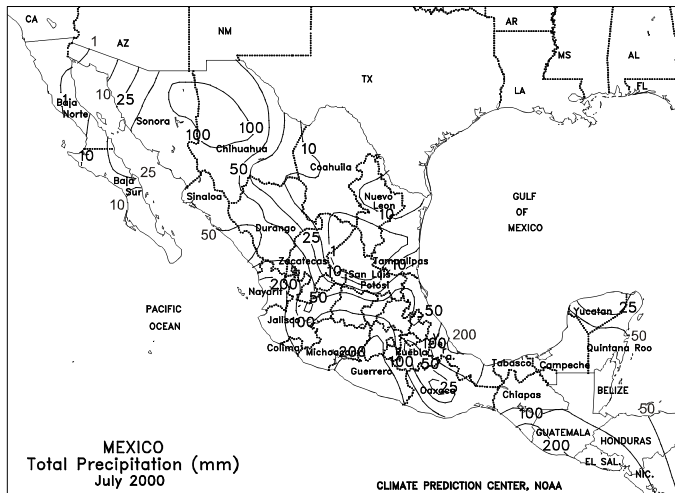
AUSTRALIA

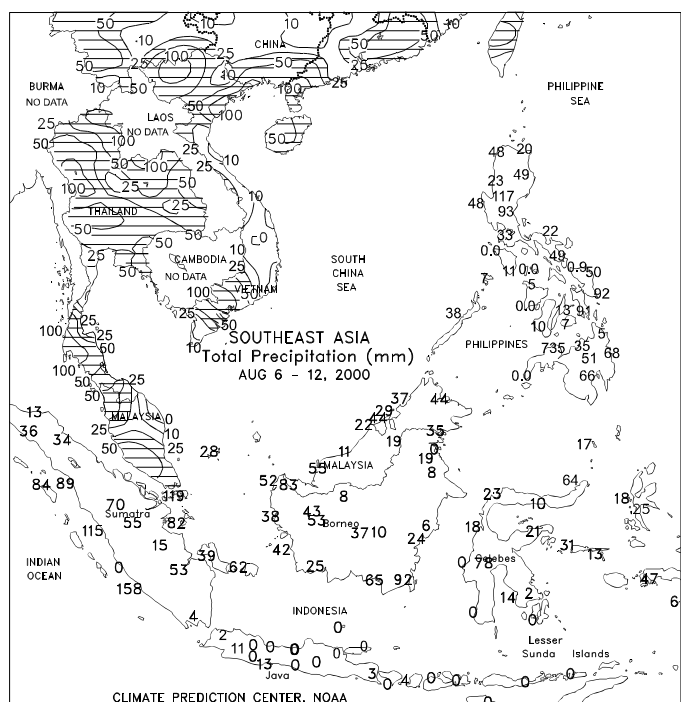
Scattered showers covered most winter crop areas. In Western Australia, rainfall was light (5 mm or less in most areas) but timely as seasonal warming spurred local grain and oilseed development. In the southeast (South Australia to New South Wales), somewhat heavier rainfall (2-15 mm or more) and near- to above-normal temperatures benefited vegetative winter crops, but patchy frost likely limited development. Rainfall was sparse in Queensland's interior crop areas, but scattered showers (up to 25 mm) along the coast caused some disruptions of sugarcane fieldwork. In New Zealand, light rain (25 mm or less) covered the agricultural districts of North Island, but dry weather dominated eastern crop lands of South Island. During July, showers maintained generally favorable moisture levels in Western Australia's western and southern winter crop areas. Farther inland, however, below-normal rainfall continued for the 3rd consecutive month, although seasonably mild weather kept crops in a semi-dormant state. July rainfall was also below normal across the southeast, but much of the rain fell in the latter half of the month and was timely for tillering wheat and barley. Near- to above-normal temperatures spurred the early crop development. Warmer- and drier-than-normal weather dominated winter crop areas of Queensland and northern New South Wales, where additional moisture will be needed in upcoming weeks as winter wheat and barley advance through reproduction. Mostly dry weather favored fieldwork in sugarcane plantations along the eastern coast.



**MEXICO**

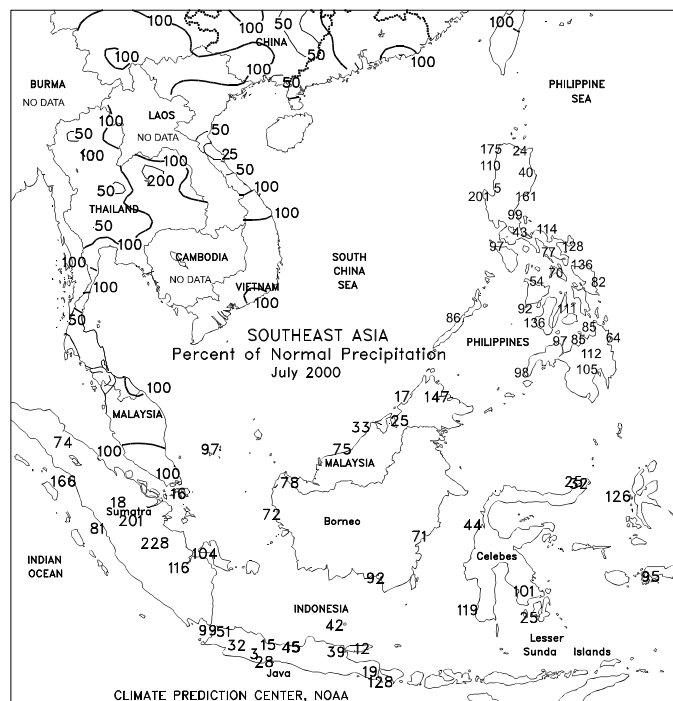
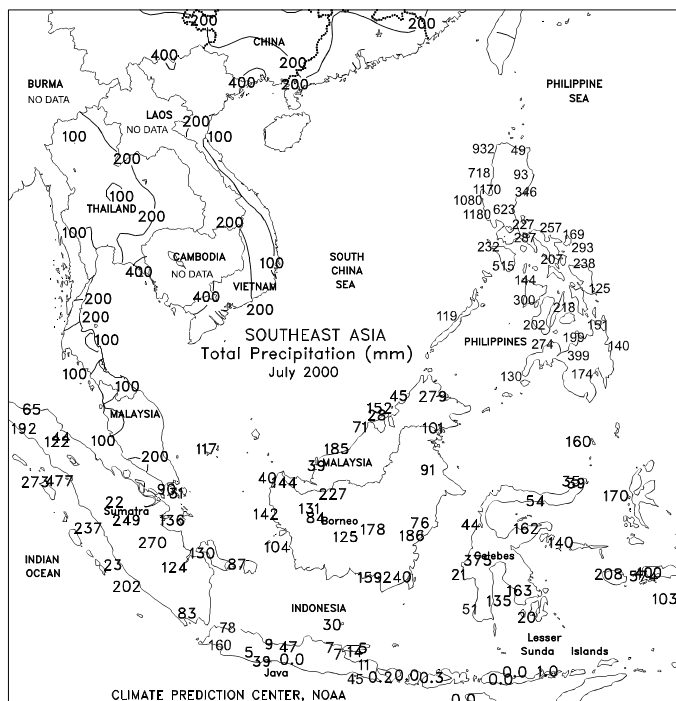
Widespread showers (10-50 mm) covered the central and eastern corn belt, boosting moisture supplies for corn. Only portions of the western corn belt (Michoacan and Nayarit) received little or no rain. Heavier showers (80-200 mm) covered Veracruz, boosting moisture supplies, but causing some local flooding. Across the Yucatan Peninsula, moderate to heavy showers (50-130 mm) also boosted moisture supplies. Scattered light showers (5-20 mm) fell across northern Mexico, where more rain is still needed, especially in north-central and northeast Mexico. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across the main corn belt and near-normal across the north. During July, below-normal rainfall reduced moisture supplies for corn across the main corn belt and the Yucatan Peninsula. Only northwestern Mexico reported near-normal July rainfall. July temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C above normal across most of Mexico.

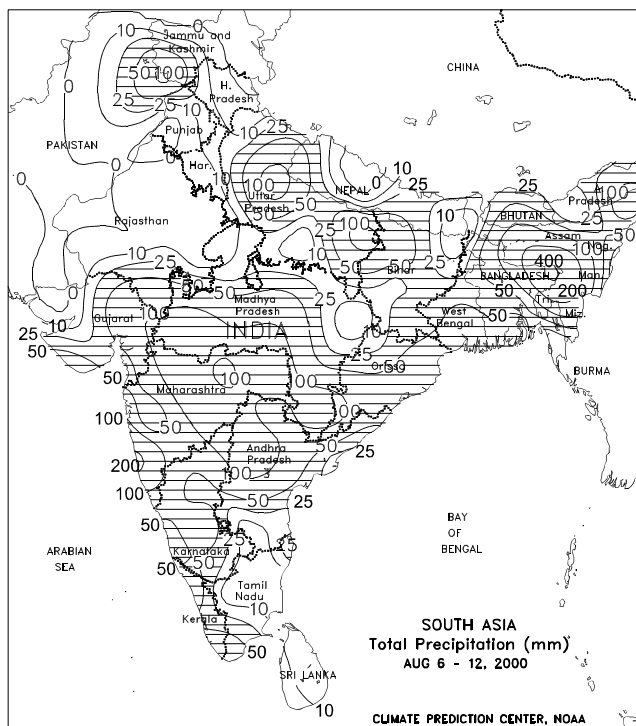
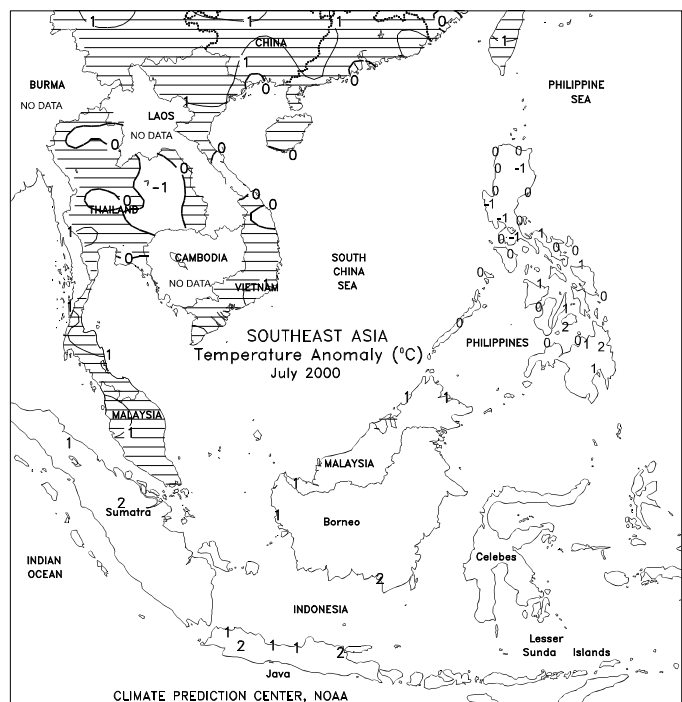
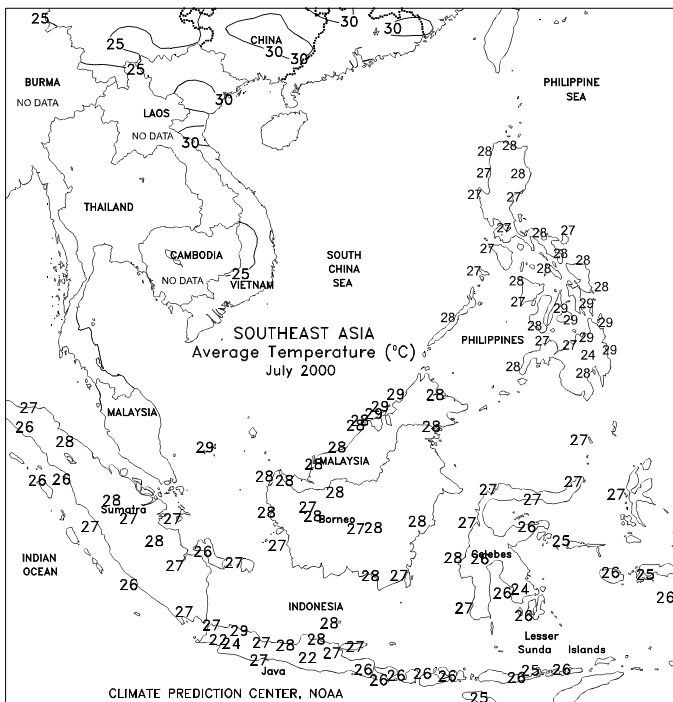




SOUTHEAST ASIA

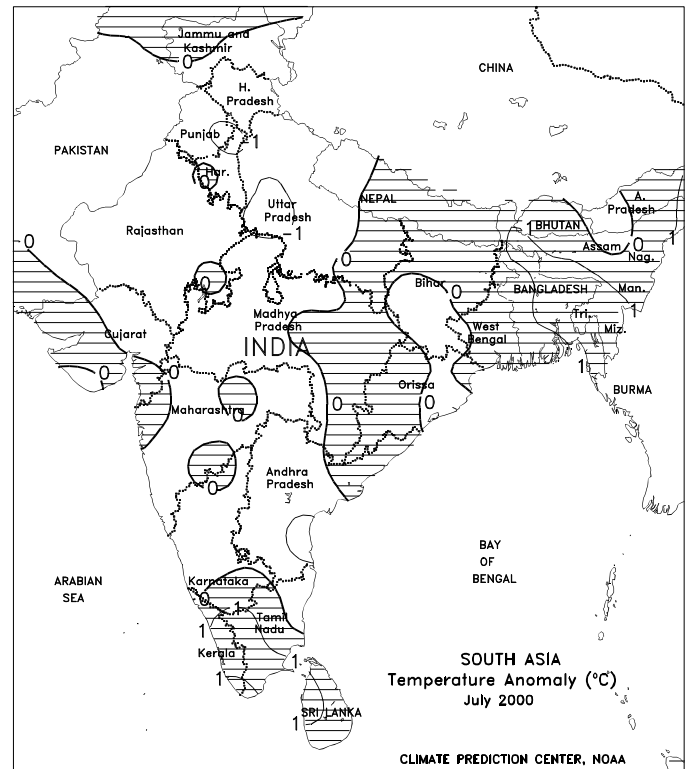
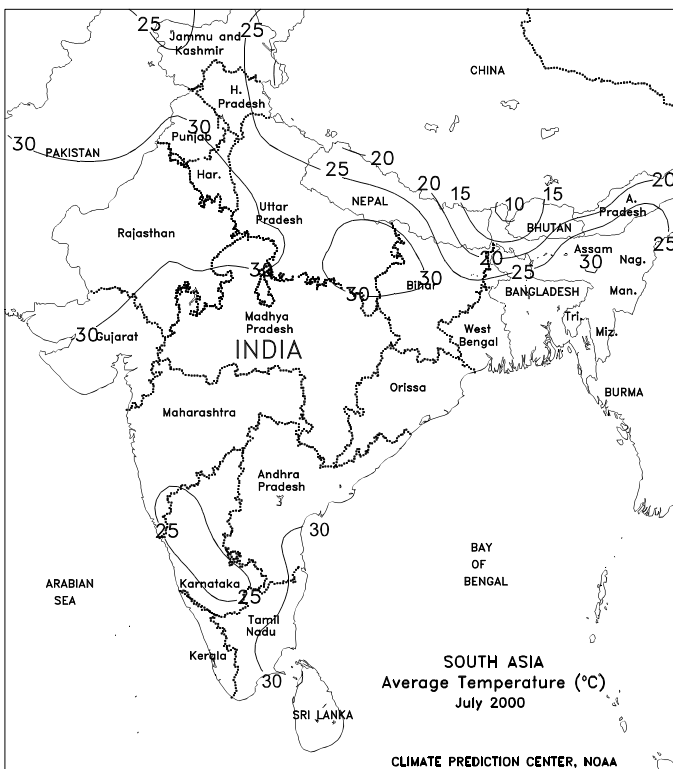
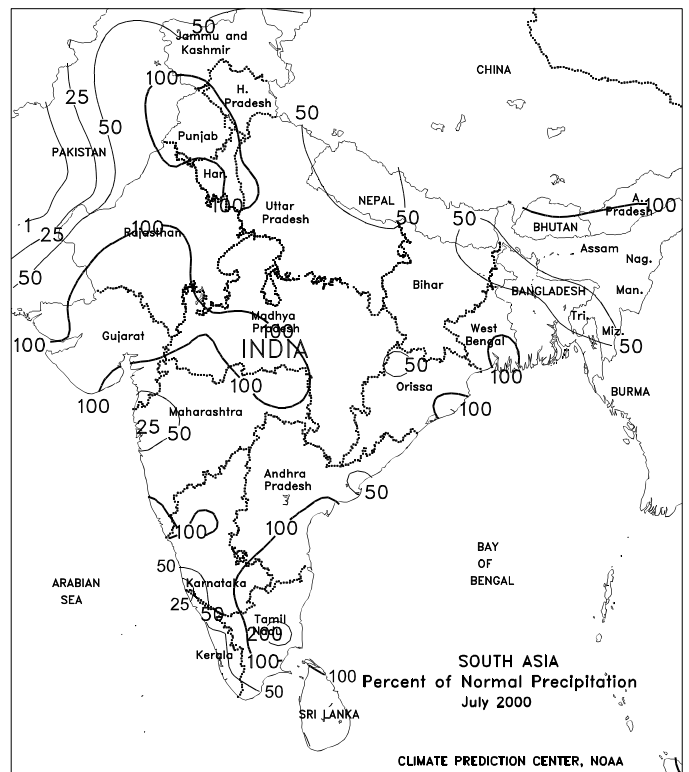
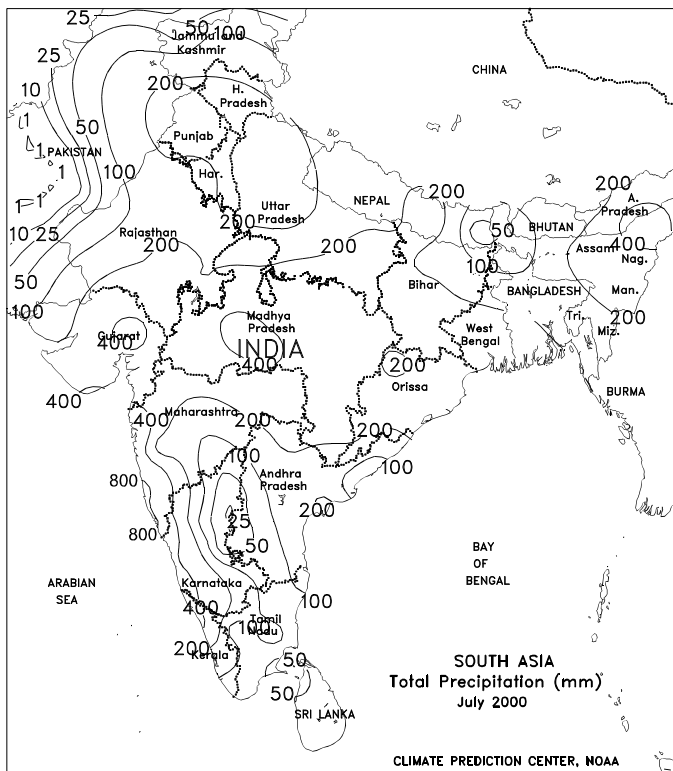
Across Thailand, widespread showers (25-75 mm) maintained moisture supplies for reproductive rice, but slowed corn harvesting. Scattered showers (25-100 mm) maintained moisture supplies for 10th-month rice across northern and southern Vietnam. In the Philippines, showers (20-60 mm) fell in Luzon, favoring grain crops, while mostly dry weather reduced moisture supplies elsewhere. In peninsular Malaysia, widespread showers (25-85 mm) boosted moisture supplies for oil palm. Java, Indonesia remained seasonably dry. During July, rice areas of Thailand received above-normal rainfall, which increased moisture supplies. However, below-normal rainfall reduced moisture for corn in central Thailand. Rainfall was near to below normal in northern and central Vietnam, favoring harvesting of winter-spring rice, while generally maintaining moisture for 10th-month rice. In southern Vietnam, above-normal rainfall caused earlier-than-normal flooding, which resulted in early harvesting of summer-autumn rice. Near- to above-normal rainfall increased moisture for rice in the Philippines and favored oil palm in peninsular Malaysia. Java, Indonesia was seasonably dry with moisture supplies remaining adequate.

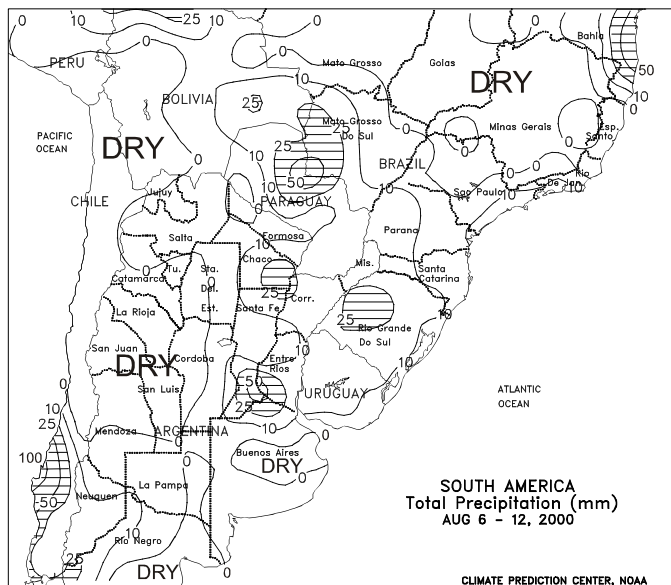




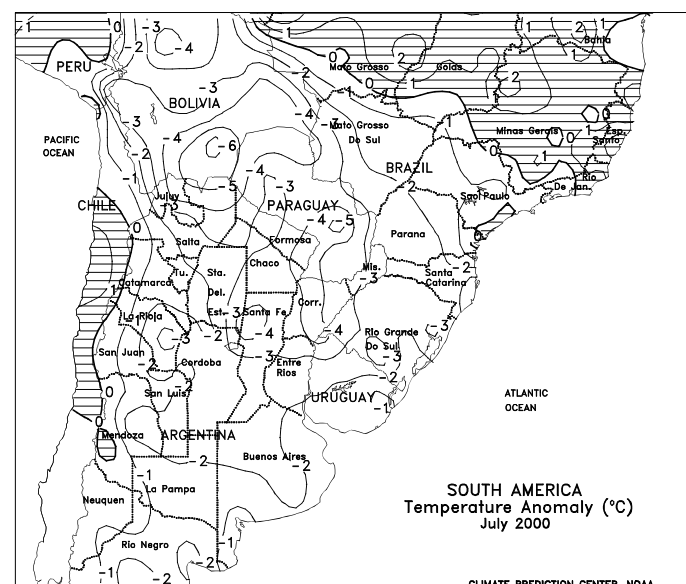
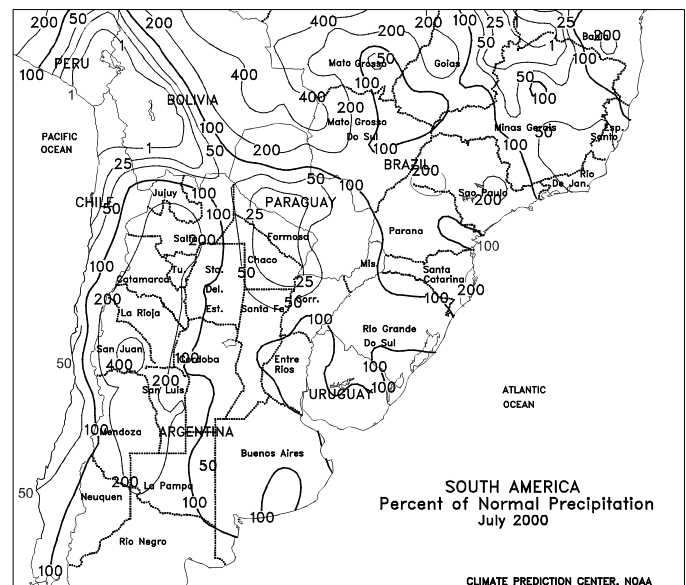
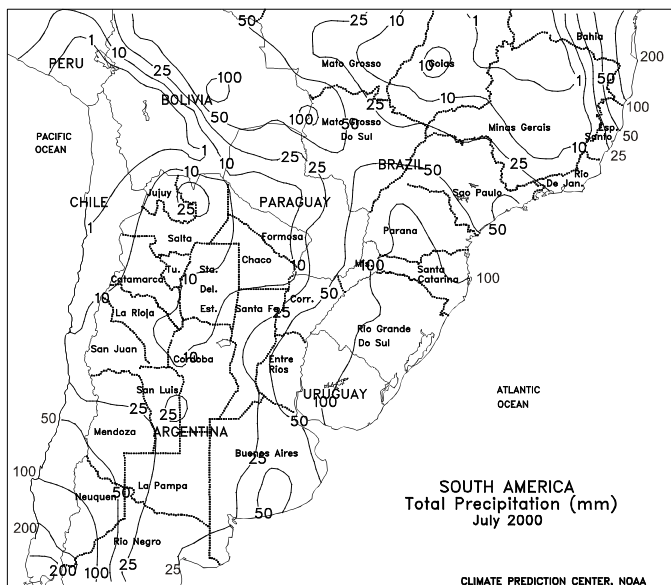
SOUTH ASIA

The return of monsoon showers brought much-needed relief from dryness and heat to southern and west-central India. Locally heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) covered a broad area from Gujarat and western Madhya Pradesh southward through Andhra Pradesh, benefiting oilseeds (especially groundnuts), cotton, coarse grains, and sugarcane. Temperatures returned to more seasonable levels with the rainfall. Elsewhere, locally heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) continued over sections of eastern India and Bangladesh, causing additional flooding. Generally drier weather returned to north-central India and neighboring sections of Pakistan. In early July, a vigorous monsoon circulation brought near- to above-normal rainfall to most Indian crop areas, improving moisture levels for summer crop germination and establishment. However, the area of greatest rainfall rapidly shifted away from the south and west. As a result, conditions had become too dry by month's end for normal development of rainfed crops over a broad area stretching from Gujarat to southern Andhra Pradesh. In contrast, the soybean belt (western Madhya Pradesh), India's northern Plain, and the eastern rice region continued to receive frequent rainfall during the latter half of the month. Monsoon rains eventually overspread Pakistan's northern rice and cotton areas. July temperatures generally averaged near normal across the region, although unseasonable heat (highs in the upper 30's degrees C) developed over the driest portions of western and southern India by month's end.



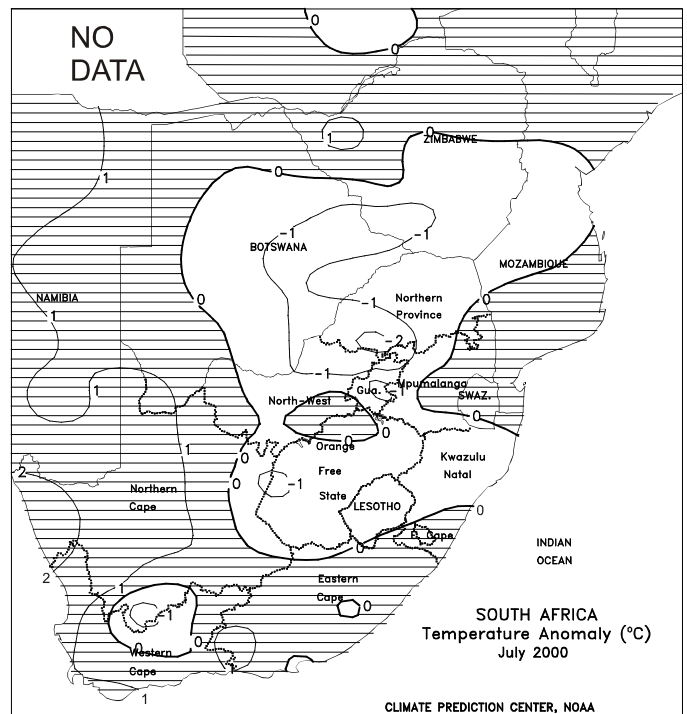
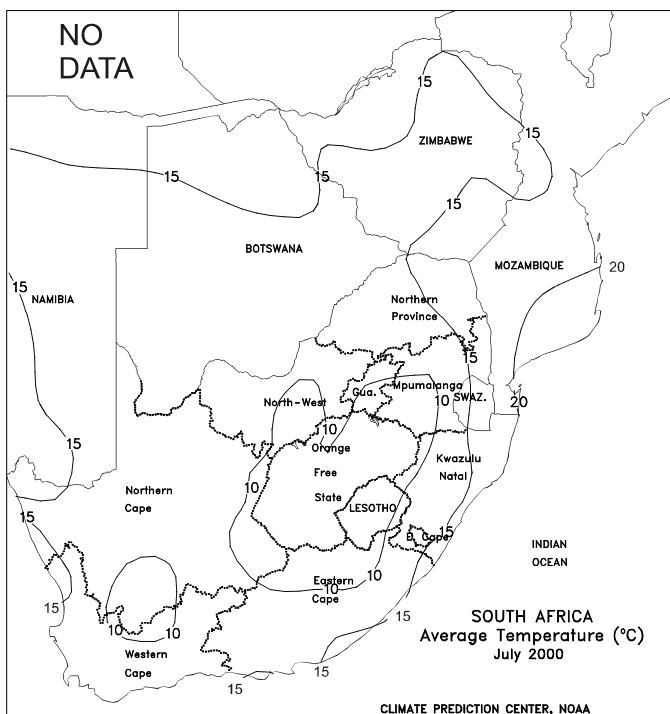
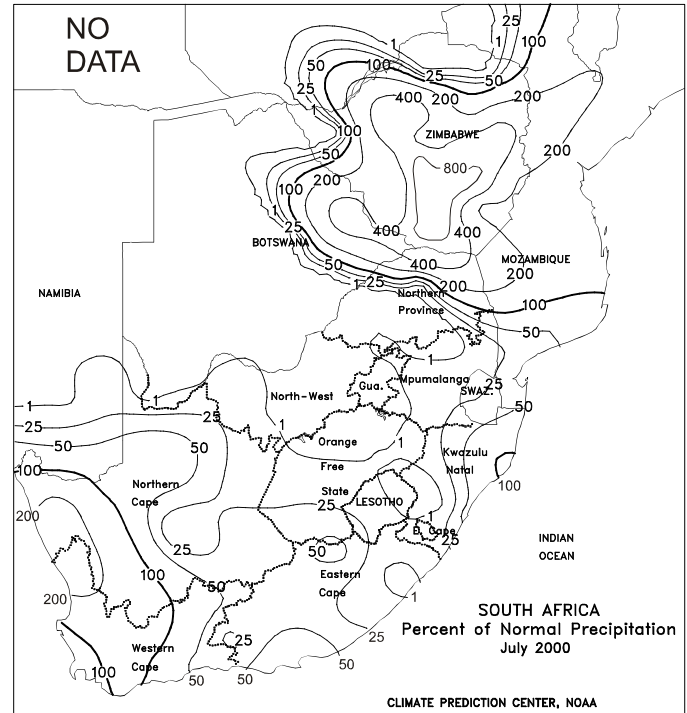
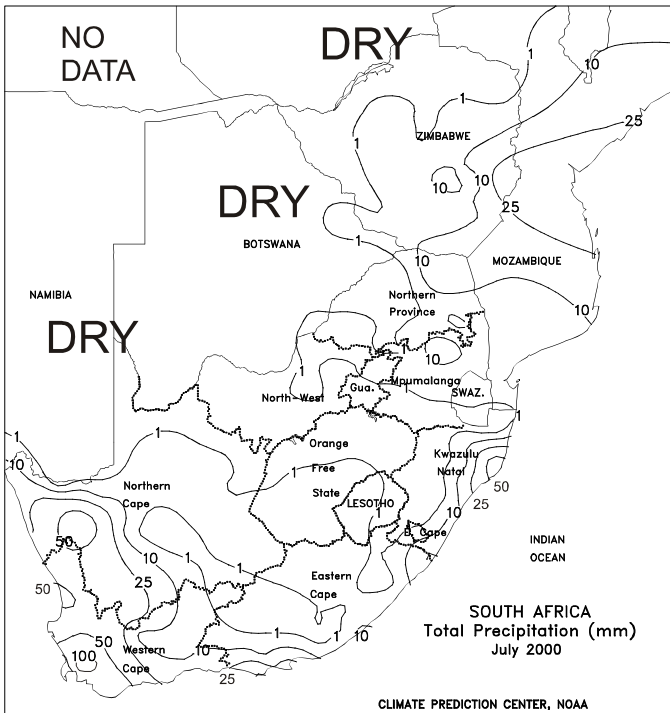


Parana, Brazil and winter crops in Paraguay. July monthly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C below normal across southern Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. Near-to above-normal July rainfall maintained adequate soil moisture for winter wheat in southern Brazil. Below-normal July rainfall aided winter wheat planting in central Argentina, but topsoil moisture was becoming limited by early August.



SOUTH AMERICA

In central Argentina, light to moderate rain (5-20 mm, with an isolated amount greater than 50 mm) boosted topsoil moisture for vegetative winter wheat across southern Santa Fe, eastern Cordoba, and extreme northern Buenos Aires. However, dry weather continued across Buenos Aires, limiting topsoil moisture, but adequate subsoil moisture supplies exist. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C below normal across central Argentina, with the lowest temperatures ranging from 0 to -5 degrees C. According to the Argentine Agriculture Secretariat as of August 11, wheat was 95 percent planted, the same as last year. In Buenos Aires, wheat was 92 percent planted. In the north, cotton harvesting is nearly completed. In southern Brazil, light rain (5-17 mm) fell across the main wheat-producing areas of eastern Rio Grande do Sul, eastern Santa Catarina, and Parana, maintaining adequate soil moisture for winter wheat. Temperatures averaged slightly below normal across eastern wheat areas and above normal from northern Parana northward. During July in southern Brazil, mid-month scattered frost and freezing temperatures in Parana in Minas Gerais and Sao Paulo caused some damage to next year's coffee crop. The cool weather also reportedly damaged vegetative winter wheat in



MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

During July, warm, dry weather maintained high irrigation demands for summer crops. In Turkey, scattered showers boosted moisture reserves in summer crop areas along the Black Sea Coast. Late winter wheat harvesting made good progress.

